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LOOK INSIDE



Virtual detective

An invoice sets Karl Hamilton off on a little Internet detective work.

See page 3



When in Rome

After learning about Roman art, students put their results on display.

See page 4



Good at speaking

Students excelled at Legion's annual public speaking contest.

See page 9



Fishing changes

Local anglers encouraged to say what they think about MNR changes.

See page 12

In Quotes

"If you insist on making Sunday hunting an issue, perhaps then Saturday could be the day when everyone else could enjoy the woods."

See letters page 8



Casey Lessard/TIMES

On your mark, get set, shop!

Pat Woodcroft of Horseshoe Lake won a shopping spree at Dollo's IGA in Minden. Woodcroft had three minutes to get up to \$1000 worth of merchandise into her cart. Her strategy was to go "down to the aisle where the cheese, butter and frozen foods are, then straight for the meat." Her final tally was \$735.54, including two roasts worth \$96 each. She won the spree after entering a contest at the store. "I just kept filling out forms and putting them in the box," she said. "I'm a very bad shopper, so I'm here a lot."

Property assessment appeals on the rise

by BRYN WEESE
Times Staff

The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation, MPAC,

has received an increase of appeals this year as more and more homeowners challenge the value of their property.

In Minden Hills, the requests

for reconsideration, which is an informal appeal to MPAC itself, have risen from 192 in 2004 to 263 this year. This represents 2.9

see MARKET page 10

Bylaw conflict pits Wessell against council

by BRYN WEESE
Times Staff

A draft pits and quarries bylaw that appeared before Minden Hills council recently put Councillor Ingram Wessell smack dab in the middle of a conflict of interest.

Wessell, who owns and operates a number of gravel pits and quarries in and around the township, is admittedly in a conflict of interest but felt strongly enough about the issue to speak on it anyway. As a gravel pit operator, he says that the proposed bylaw, which staff had prepared at council's behest, is too strong.

At the March 9 committee of the whole council meeting, he argued against the requirements of site plans and berms to shield pit operations from view. Both measures would prove costly to pit and quarry operators such as Wessell.

"They are trying to put something onto us that is abusive not only to me but other operators as well," he told the Times after the meeting. "I probably spoke too much [at the committee meeting] and [will speak again] at the meeting of council [on March 30], I'll have to tone down. As long as I declare my interests, I don't think I'll have to leave the room."

But Wessell didn't declare his interest at the March 9 meeting. Wessell claims he didn't have a chance to review the bylaw because he wasn't given a copy

see WESSALL page 2

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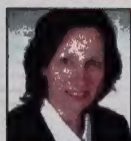
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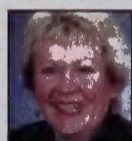
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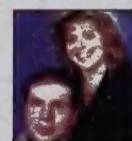
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Wessell vows to share his views despite conflict

from page 1

until the morning of the meeting. Reeve Jim McMahon, however, says that the draft bylaw was available a week before the meeting. He was surprised when Wessell didn't declare his interest, even though he understands why Wessell was outspoken.

"Ingram is Ingram and he said he was sticking up for the little guy, and rightfully so. I think he meant well by it, but I sometimes wonder if he really understands the seriousness of having the conflict. If it was me I probably would have got up and left the room."



"I'll have to tone down but I still have to get my views across," says Councillor Ingram Wessell.

Of the council members present at the meeting, Wessell was the most outspoken by far. Both McMahon and Deputy Reeve Cheryl Murdoch pointed out Wessell's conflict of interest, but Wessell continued to participate in the discussion.

When Wessell declares his pecuniary interest at the March 30 meeting of council, he will be left without a voice or a vote at council, but he still has concerns about the draft bylaw that he wants heard.

"I don't know how I'm going to get my concerns across, whether I write a letter to the municipality or whatever," he says. "I'll have to tone down, but I still have to get my concerns across. I'm going to go through the proposed bylaw and make notes. I can present my notes to somebody."

McMahon says that, as reeve, he does have the authority to declare Wessell's conflict of interest for him if Wessell neglects to do so himself.

Asked whether he would do so at the next council meeting if Wessell doesn't declare his interest, McMahon said he would unequivocally.

Quarry bylaw is too onerous for pit owners, Wessell says

by BRYN WEESE
Times Staff

A proposed bylaw to regulate pits and quarries in Minden Hills was met with some opposition at the last council meeting.

Despite agreement around the table that protections were needed in the wake of the complaints about the Levesque Pit on Deep Bay Road, the draft bylaw proposed by Chief Bylaw Officer Fraser MacDonald was a little too strict for council and has been sent back for revisions.

"I pieced it together with other similar bylaws that Rick Hunter [the township's planner from Planscape] had identified," said MacDonald about his seven-page bylaw designed to regulate the operation of pits and quarries in Minden Hills.

At the behest of council, which asked for such a bylaw in the wake of complaints from cottagers and residents about the Levesque Pit, MacDonald's bylaw is thorough. Major items of the draft legislation include a site plan, shielding the pit from the public's view, dust control, and hours of operation.

Of the councillors present at the meeting, Ingram Wessell was the most outspoken, despite a conflict of interest. Wessell operates several pits and quarries in and around Minden Hills.

"We've got to do something to try to satisfy the worries of the people. But they have asked for some things that are a little overboard. For example, they wanted it so that [the pit operators] could only work from 9-5. Well, that's pretty hard for any contractor to be able to get by on that."

In the proposed bylaw, hours of operation are regulated, albeit a little more leniently. Blasting activity is limited to between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.; likewise, drilling, crushing or similar activity would be restricted to the hours of 7 a.m. and 8 p.m.. All other pit and quarry operations would be allowed only between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m.. Also, no pit or quarry activity would be allowed on Sunday or statutory holidays.

For both Wessell and Reeve Jim McMahon, the necessity of a site plan and the required buffer shielding the pit or quarry from public view are too costly and strict.

The proposed site plan requirement calls for a drawing, to scale, showing the zoned footprint, quarry boundaries, natural surface water drainages on the property and the location of all buildings, structures and wells on the lot and within 120 metres of the pit or quarry lot.

While some found this requirement too restrictive, MacDonald says that all new buildings need to provide a site plan showing where the building is going, where the well is going and where they are in relation to the property lines. If residential properties require it, why shouldn't pits and quarries?

"Maybe use different wording," said McMahon. "I think the word drawing or sketch would be better. We don't need a consultant's site plan, just a drawing to scale."

Despite Wessell's opposition to a consultant's legal (and costly) site plan, he did note ironically that the grief of Gull Lake property owners could have been avoided with such a drawing.

"One of the things that upset me [about the Levesque Pit] is that they went outside the footprint," Wessell said. "I did my best for the people; that was one of the things that really caused a bad irritation is when they dug right outside the pit, and went so close to the cottagers."

The buffer zone requirement calls for either a tree screen or an earth berm to shield the pit and quarry operations from public view. Tree screens would be required for all areas of the pit or

quarry that were within 15 metres of either a street or a residential property. Also, a suitable tree screen would consist of a thickness of at least four metres and a height of at least three metres. In lieu of trees, an earth berm would be permitted as a visual screen, provided it also blocked the view of the operations.

Another major proposal of the draft bylaw to which all councillors seemed to agree was the dust control clause, which reads, "every operation of a gravel pit or a stone quarry shall provide for dust control."

"Dust suppressant," it continues "shall be applied to entrance and exit roads, or roads which are in close proximity to residential uses, as often as required to control dust..."

For the Gull Lake residents who have complained about the Levesque Pit, dust has been a big concern. Wessell, who is the councillor for Ward 3 (including Gull Lake), admitted dust was a major problem.

"I've seen cottages there with half an inch of dust over everything. You can't blame the people for being upset," he said. "We're concerned about the people, but we don't want to abuse somebody else."

McMahon echoed, "What we really want to see is dust control, hours of operation and blasting controls."

The pits and quarries bylaw is far from being adopted into law. Council has asked that MacDonald rework several sections of the bylaw to avoid unnecessary burdens to small operators, specifically the site plan and the berm requirements.

The revised edition could be tabled again as soon as the next meeting of the committee of the whole, scheduled for April 13 at 9 a.m. in council chambers.

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Don't get caught in web of deceit

A little detective work protects Royal Homes of Minden from potential Internet fraud

by MARTHA PERKINS
Times Staff

As a modern-day Sherlock Holmes, Karl Hamilton didn't need a hound's tooth coat and deer stalker's cap to turn himself into a virtual sleuth.

Instead, by tracking the origins of a website through the Byzantine maze called the Internet, he discovered that the person who was demanding payment for a service that Hamilton's employer didn't ask for is already facing fraud charges.

Hamilton works for Royal Homes in Minden. A few weeks ago, the office got a call from a company demanding \$400 for a business listing on a website. When Royal Homes asked for proof that it had agreed to this service, the woman on the other end of the phone said she had a tape recording of a verbal confirmation. When asked to play this recording, she became quiet and said she'd call them back.

When the second call came, Royal Homes asked for an invoice. One was faxed to them; the date on the invoice was the date that Royal Homes demanded the invoice.

Altogether, Royal Homes got about eight calls from the company, each one demanding payment.

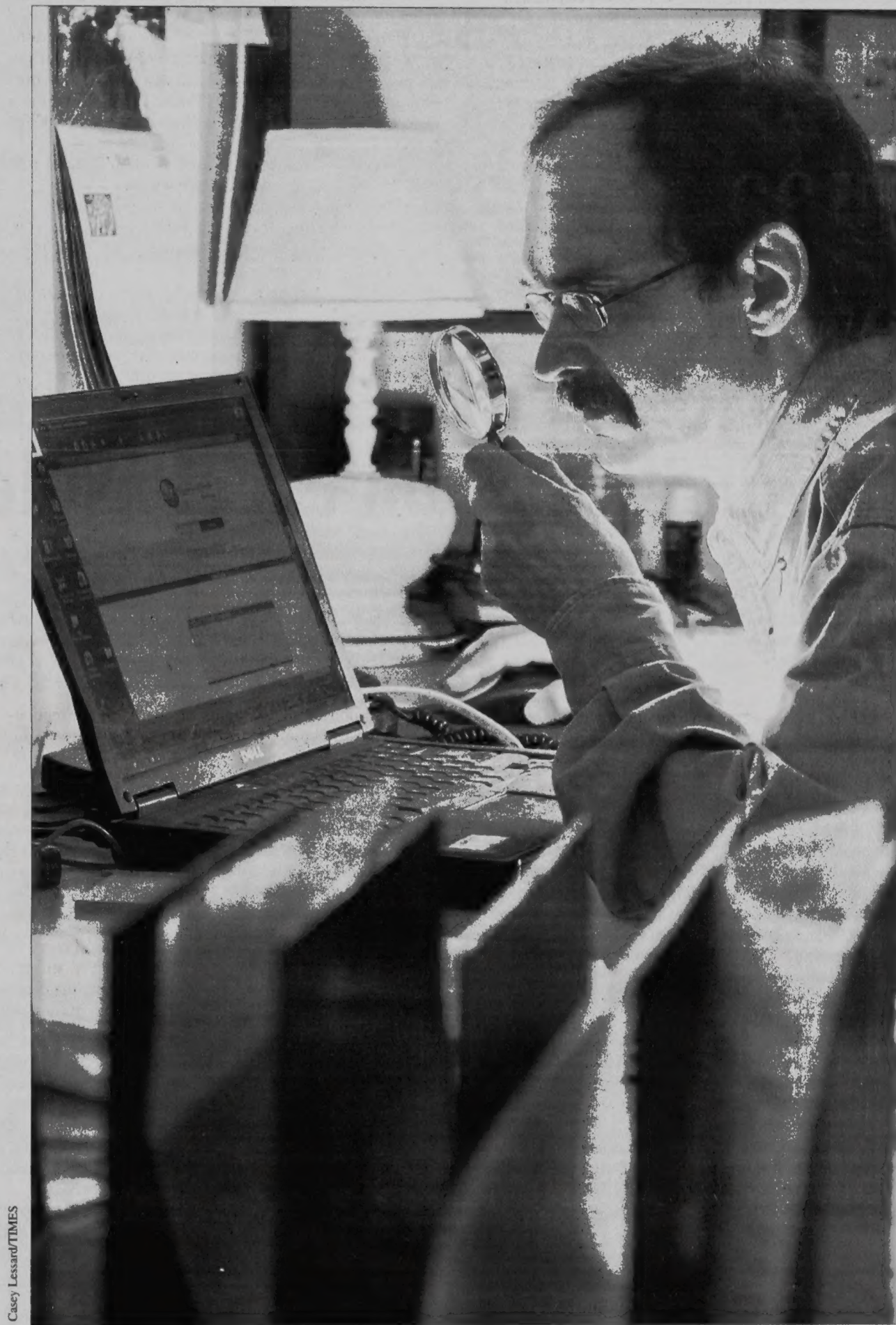
"They're pretty convincing," Hamilton says. "They make it sound like there was a verbal agreement."

But the more Royal Homes resisted paying, the more demanding the calls became. "They're pretty insistent. They keep calling back and asking for a credit card number. They're quick talking and they want money."

Royal Homes wasn't biting.

Then Hamilton turned into a detective. When he's not working at Royal Homes, he has his own website of nature soundscapes (www.naturesounds.ca). He knew that every website has to be registered, and to register a website you must give your name and contact information.

So he took the invoice that was sent to Royal Homes and, starting with the website address, was able to trace a path to the federal government's Competition Bureau. Last Tuesday, it issued a press release saying that a 28-year-old Montreal-area man had been charged with nine



Casey Lessard/TIMES

When Royal Homes was asked to pay for a listing on a website, Karl Hamilton did a little virtual detective work to trace the Internet site on the invoice to a man who is facing fraud charges. He forwarded the invoice to the federal government's Competition Bureau.

counts under the Competition Act "for masterminding an alleged deceptive mail and telemarketing scam targeting Canadian businesses." He's also charged with 13 counts for his role in a related telemarketing scam, as well as breaching a prohibition order which prohibits him from engaging in deceptive telemarketing for 10 years.

The name of the man who was charged was the same as the man who registered the website on the invoice sent to Royal Homes.

In the charges, the Competition Bureau alleges that the

man, under three different company names, sent invoices to businesses demanding payment for unordered listings in one of three Internet-based business directories. The bureau says, "These invoices were often preceded by a telephone call advising the recipient that they had previously authorized the listing, which the complainants said was not true."

Hamilton was quickly on the phone to the Competition Bureau, whose staff was very interested in the story he had to tell.

Have a story idea? E-mail editor@mindentimes.ca



Oh, Barry O'!

Barry O' (above), star of the Barry O' Kidshow, made a lot of new fans recently at the Northern Lights Pavilion during the most recent production of the Razzmatazz Kids Shows series. Using magic, music and ventriloquism, the children in the audience couldn't help but meet the entertainer in person after the show. Right, young children can sometimes be an unruly crowd, but during the Barry O' Kidshow children and their parents were all eyes and ears for the seasoned entertainer. While the sing-a-longs got the crowd excited, the magic and ventriloquism most certainly captured everyone's unwavering attention. Photos, Bryn Weese.



Councillors won't reconsider water main

by BRYN WEESE
Times staff

The following are brief notes from the March 9 committee-of-the-whole meeting of Minden Hills council.

Gaetan Chenier, the developer of the new OPP building, once again asked council to consider laying a six-inch water main across Highway 35 partially at the township's expense.

A letter from Chenier lays out seven reasons the township should reconsider its decision not to supply the bigger water main. Those reasons include the divisiveness of council, the assumption of adequate water service to the lot and the additional tax revenue the new building will provide.

"I'm not going to suggest that this council should or should not pay for the service," Environment and Property Operations Manager Bob Romberg said. "But I would hope council will take another look at it. Perhaps put the municipality in a better light for future developers."

Councillors Clayton Cameron and Ingram Wessell, who both voted against paying for the service (in addition to Councillor Peter Oyler) when the item was first before council, said the issue was settled.

"When you make a decision after all the discussion we had," said Wessell, "you should stick with it."

The procedural bylaw for reopening an issue at council is complicated, says CAO Gerry Morrison, but he adds, "There are ways and means of any member of council bringing an issue back to the table. One way is if they found that there was new information pertaining to the item."

Appointment of Ratcliffe

During a special meeting of council, held March 9 prior to committee of the whole meeting, Rick Ratcliffe was sworn in as the newest member of Minden Hills council. Ratcliffe, representing Ward 1 (Anson, Hinden and Minden) although he is a resident of Ward 3 (Snowdon), was nominated for the position at the last meeting of council in closed session. He was selected from nine applicants who sought to fill the vacant Ward 1 seat after Oyler's appointment to councillor-at-large.

Source Water Protection Agreement

Romberg informed council that their application to the Ministry of Environment for source water pre-screening has been approved.

The funds, applied for in late January for the wells used by the town of Minden, are to be used to study the factors that could

affect the water wells used for the town of Minden's water supply. As Romberg says, "Pre-screening will review the whole area to see if there is any industrial, commercial or agricultural businesses or institutions that may have an effect on the water supply throughout the whole municipality."

Provided council passes a bylaw allowing the township to enter into agreement with the MOE for the use of the funds, there is \$10,000 available for the source water study. Hoping to keep costs down, Romberg says that the township has been contacted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and by two neighbouring municipalities who also received grant money, Highlands East and Galway-Cavendish-Harvey, to collaborate on the study.

Water Meter Reading

Contrary to an earlier recommendation, Romberg suggests that the town's water meters be read by staff instead of Olameter. A one-time cost of \$10,350 is required to purchase the meter-reading equipment.

Earlier, a five-year contract with Olameter was recommended by Romberg for \$7,500.

Council did not approve Romberg's recommendation, instead asking him to seek

a shorter contract with Olameter. The shortest period Olameter was willing to consider was three years, but the shorter term resulted in higher costs, up to \$11,000 per year.

"This cost is not acceptable to the Township of Minden Hills," noted Romberg in his report. "It is obvious we should purchase the meter reading equipment outright. I think it would be a benefit to the municipality to move in this direction."

Currently, Ivan Ingram is the only member of staff trained to read the meters but Romberg and council discussed training an additional member of staff as a back-up.

EMS letter of appreciation

Council was pleased to receive a letter of appreciation from Robert English, director of Haliburton County Emergency Medical Services, to the Minden fire department.

"Please accept this letter as my sincere gratitude for the tremendous assistance you and your firefighters provide the Haliburton County EMS," the letter read. "The countless times that you have responded to various scenes and conducted yourselves in a truly professional manner have not gone unnoticed. It is due to the dedication and co-operation of your department that has permitted us to service our calls in an efficient manner."

If you received a blood transfusion or blood product before 1992, you may have been infected with hepatitis C.

Hepatitis C is a blood-borne virus that slowly damages your liver. Symptoms do not show up for years but you will eventually get sick. Before 1992, screening for this disease was not consistent and many patients became infected through the blood system. So ask your doctor about getting tested. Detection is key to controlling the virus and you may be entitled to financial assistance.

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Behold the Ides of March

Student exhibit
at Minden gallery
goes Roman

by BRYN WEESE
Times Staff

The 'Ides of March: Roman art and mythology' multi-media art show on display at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery is a most impressive exhibition of talent from



students at Archie Stouffer Elementary School. The show features Roman bust sculptures,

Roman glass mosaics and god and goddess photos of the students themselves who chose to learn about Romans and their art in the school's winter elective.

The clay busts, created by the students under the tutelage of Steve Hudak, range from real-life likeness to the extreme abstract but are all worth a look. As are the mosaics and the photos adorning the gallery's walls that depict the students as their favourite Roman god or goddess.

The show is on display, appropriately, during the month of March and finishes on April 8.

Next at the gallery is a touring show from the Varley Art Gallery in Markham. The "3 Graces" exhibition explores the life, through art, of three Victorian women; Catherine Reynolds, Charlotte Price and Anne Langton. It begins Saturday April 15.



Posing like the Beatles, guest curator and Roman mythology expert Jenn Wanless-Craig (foreground), Roman mosaic artist Judy Breau (middle) and gallery curator Laurie Carmount (background) examine the Roman glass mosaic work by Archie Stouffer Elementary School students. Their sculptures are on display at left.

Free workshop on mental illness starts March 29

by LANCE CROSSLEY
Times Staff

The Canadian Mental Health Association is offering a free 10-week workshop for family and friends dealing with a loved one suffering from a mental illness.

Being placed in a supporting role for someone who is mentally afflicted can be demanding, fatiguing, and often frustrating, which is why a workshop such as this can provide solace for caregivers who may sometimes feel at a loss.

"I think what really helps them is to know they are not alone and that there are other people out there struggling with some of the same things," says Melanie Jackson, a public education co-ordinator for the Canadian Mental Health Association.

The workshop, called "Strengthening Families Together", was created by the Schizophrenia Society of Canada and is

designed to give caregivers information and strategies for dealing with a loved one's condition - whether it be schizophrenia, obsessive compulsive disorder, bi-polar disorder, or depression.

Jackson says such illnesses take a toll not only on the afflicted, but their support system as well.

"It's very draining for family members," she says. "Not only is there the worry about the loved one who is ill, they are also picking up the slack for that person."

Jackson says there is much to be gained through participating in the workshop. For one thing, caregivers often experience a sense of relief when opening up to others that have felt similar emotions.

Jackson says research shows that mentally ill people who have strong support systems consistently do better than those without. But unfortunately no support system is a cure for the illness itself.

"It's very difficult for someone who is ill because they know they should be happy," says Jackson. "They know they have no reason to be dissatisfied with their life, they know they have loving people around them, but it's the illness that makes it impossible to feel any joy in what they have."

In one segment of the course, families and caregivers are taught to form an agreement when the disease is on a waning part of its cycle. The agreement lays out certain rules and gives caregivers advance permission to be more directive with them, help them with their finances, and pick up whatever slack is necessary when the illness takes a downturn.

The workshop runs 6:30-9:00 p.m. every Wednesday evening from March 29 to May 31. Register as soon as possible by calling Melanie Jackson at 1-888-475-8875 or e-mailing fcj@nexus.com.net.

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Politics as they should be

THE GOVERNING STRUCTURE of Canada has for many years resembled a dance floor full of left feet. Not only has no one been leading but those who tried, former Prime Ministers Jean Chretien and Paul Martin, did nothing but step on people's feet. Only aches and pains and bloodied toes remain of their tenures.

Events of the last two weeks, however, from Afghanistan to Minden, offer hope that the governance of Canada may again soon be a fluid display of grace, power and efficient government.

The role of the federal government has historically been limited to a select few responsibilities that transcend provincial or municipal jurisdiction. Prime Minister Harper's recent visit to Afghanistan is evidence that we may once again be moving into the natural fold of a productive equilibrium state for Canadian politics.

In addition, Harper's opposition to the smothering nanny-state supported by the Liberals and NDP and his distance from the media, unless driven by a real need to do otherwise, also indicates that he intends to revert to the traditional, or pre-Trudeau role of the federal government: national defense, foreign affairs and inter-provincial relations. With fewer jobs to do, reduced federal resources are free to do them well, contrary to his Liberal predecessors who bathed in priorities, taking on too much and consequently doing very little with a lot.

Provincially, too, there is hope. Amidst the ridiculous squabbling between the bull-doggish McGuinty clan and the greedy college staff (who refused a 12.6 per cent salary increase over four years), or the local school board and the supply teachers who would threaten (if they could) the intellectual development of children for personal gain, it is refreshing to see that MPP Tim Hudak, the Tory finance critic, has proposed a real solution to a very real problem that affects real people in Ontario.

The Homestead Act, while ostensibly aimed at seniors and the poor, will affect the way every property owner in Ontario pays taxes. It will affect how every municipality is run, given that limiting assessment increases for tax purposes to five per cent will offer a fairer and more predictable distribution of the tax burden. Unfortunately the private member's bill will never pass, but it should. The debate alone is a step in the right direction. While property taxes are a municipal responsibility, the assessment program is a provincial one. One that they alone can fix.

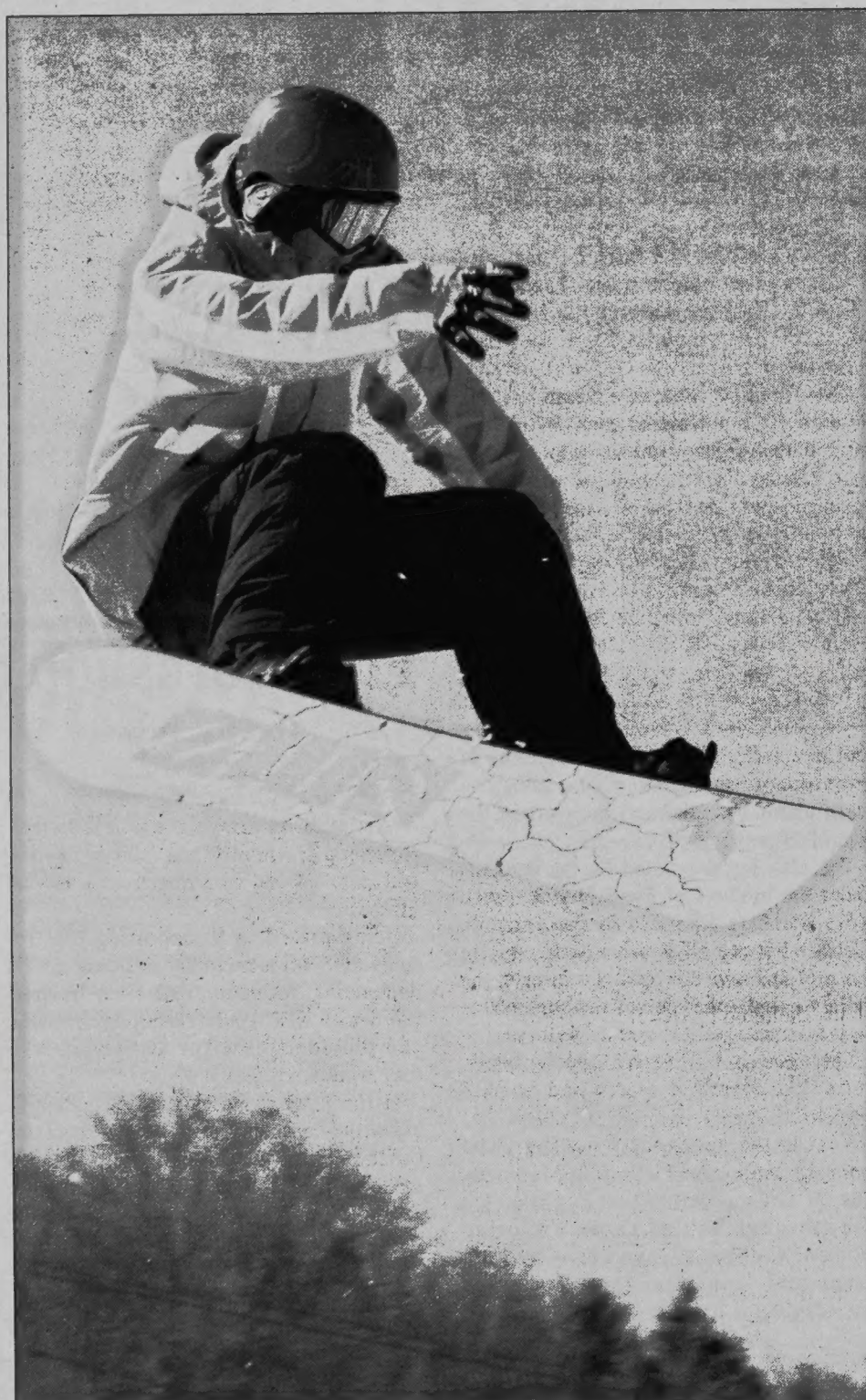
Locally, the pits and quarries bylaw currently before Minden Hills council is the quintessential business problem for a township such as ours. It arose from a local problem – the Gull Lake cottagers were nearly blasted from their homes by the Levesque Pit – and the bylaw's outcome will be locally focused to address other, similar problems that may arise in the future. While the pits and quarries bylaw is not in its final draft yet, it will be soon, and then law.

Although it may not happen often, it is a pleasure to see council debate issues on such a local scale. Doing what is best only for the majority of people in the township and nothing more. Respecting their jurisdictional limitations and doing what they were elected to do.

If only the last two weeks could last for years, Canada would no longer find itself beyond the fringe of the international spotlight, or better yet, the international dance floor complete with left and right feet.

"Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's, and render unto God that which is God's."

– Bryn Weese



IMAGES OF THE HIGHLANDS

Soaring over the Highlands

Photo by CASEY LESSARD/The Times

TO THE EDITOR

Times readers write

Limit truck size

To the Editor:

Despite Ted Smith's derisive humour ("Let truckers bring trucks home, letters March 9), the situation really is a serious matter. Minden Hills' zoning by-law is supposed to set out the areas for compatible uses. People do business in commercial zones; they use machinery in industrial zones; they live in residential zones.

Generally in Ontario, councils have determined that heavy trucks have no place in residential zones. Most of our neighbouring townships allow a commercial vehicle of up to half a tonne or sometimes one tonne. Gravenhurst seems to be the most liberal. It allows up to a five tonne vehicle.

The planner engaged by council recom-

mended that Minden Hills should go for this upper level of five tonnes. However the council rejected his advice and said it wanted no limitation on the size of trucks on residential property.

"Unlimited" is a sweeping concept. Under the Highway Traffic Act a commercial vehicle of unlimited size can weigh up to 63 tonnes. That's the biggest vehicle allowed on the roads of Ontario and under the Minden Hills by-law, one would be allowed on every residential property.

Obviously not every property owner is going to want a truck of that size at home, or anything like it. But the fact that it is permitted will be enough to cause people to worry about the intention of their neighbours – or new neighbours when a

see BYLAW page 7

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IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Who wants to be a billionaire?

LAST WEEK a man in Los Angeles was caught with 250 counterfeit bank notes, each in billion dollar denominations. U.S. federal authorities were tipped off by the fact that no such currency exists - and probably by the substandard quality of his leisure suit and toupee.

Now, I'm not exactly a genius when it comes to counterfeiting - my school notes explaining suspect absences were always signed "Sincerely, Steve's Dad" - but even I know that if you are going to counterfeit money you probably don't want to draw too much attention to yourself. And, needless to say, 250 billion dollars draws a lot of attention.

Maybe I'm not thinking this through, but I figure that it'd be hard to pass a billion dollar bank note at the local grocery store without attracting undue notice.

Consider the following scenario: "Yes, I'll take everything in the store and my change please..."

If I were ever to start counterfeiting, I think I'd start with pennies. Not even

pennies, actually. No, I'd begin with crisp bank notes in one-cent denominations. I'm talking about U.S. currency, of course. I'm not an idiot.

The point is I'd be flying in under the radar.

And, believe me, I wouldn't wear one of those accountant visors like all those counterfeiters do in the movies either. An accountant's visor attracts hard-nosed detectives like pit bulls to a bologna truck. It's a dead giveaway I tell you.

No, you'd hardly know I was breaking the law at all. Slowly, but surely, I'd amass my fortune though. The scam would go something like this.

I'd walk up to the proprietor of a gumball machine and say, "Permit me to introduce myself. I am Count Lowenbrau of Golden Hops, Bavaria, and I'd love to contract the services of your exquisite gumball machine, perhaps to partake in a

jawbreaker or, if lucky, a fine piece of jewellery such as that wonderful purple mood ring. Unfortunately, I only have 25

one-cent US bank notes on my person. The rest of my amassed fortune is at the penthouse suite of my luxury hotel where I often eat caviar, drink champagne, and wear tasteful silk cravats. Would you kindly exchange these completely authentic documents for a quarter in cold hard cash?"

I would, of course, do all this while smoking a cigarillo, carrying a rhinestone-collared lapdog, and speaking with a passable Bavarian accent. A monocle and a trench coat would complete the subterfuge. And since I wouldn't be drawing attention to myself, no one would suspect a thing.

As soon as the exchange was made, I'd suddenly remember an appointment with my banker and sprint out of the store with my ill-gotten 25 cents of cold, hard

cash. Then, of course, I'd skip the country before the heat came down on me like a ton of bricks.

I think you can see this is a far more sensible approach to counterfeiting. Especially since my quarters would then be deposited in a high-yield savings account in Switzerland and the mood rings, if circumstances forced me to purchase them, would be fenced for additional cash on e-Bay.

Then I'd lie low for several years. And just when Interpol has placed my last caper in the cold case files, I'd strike again, this time in a daring operation aimed at one of those pop machine that take loonies.

It's practically the perfect crime.

These days, however, counterfeiters have gotten greedy. They're out for billions right away and they risk everything. If only they knew that my way makes much more cents.

Hey, does anyone have a lap dog I could borrow?



BEYOND35

Steve Galea

A mother's courage remembered

AND SO, this suddenly, I am the oldest one. We are born in the shade of the generations before us, sheltered by our elders.

And then they fall away one by one, grandfathers, grandmothers, father, mother, until we stand in the cold bright light of our own old age.

And know it will soon be our turn.

My mother's dying in her sleep just before dawn last Thursday morning in St. Catharines completed the cycle for me.

I am oldest brother, oldest sibling, oldest cousin on both sides of the family.

Now we mourn, my family and I, as much for ourselves and for our own mortality and for the passage of time as for our mother. We all were young once, even as she was.

It is the most ordinary thing in the world. We are born, live a life that is only a blink in the eye of time, and then we die.

And those we leave behind wonder how they will ever fill the hole we leave in their lives and then in a year or so we learn to carry on as though nothing is missing.

Except something will be missing; old age is an accumulation of losses. We almost drown in them.

The year after my father died, I took my mother for a holiday in Cooperstown, N.Y., to see the Baseball Hall of Fame

and all of the beautiful upstate New York scenery along the way.

At this remove, it seems like an odd thing to do but my mother had acquired a modest interest in baseball while I was making my living writing about it and I would use any pretext for a visit to Cooperstown.

Two things happened. First, for the first time I saw my mother as a person and not just a mother and so we became the best of friends in a way we never could have been when I was younger.

Second, in discovering her as a person, I saw a woman who loved meeting people and being liked by them. Years later, she would say that my nephew David expected everybody to like him, but she was describing herself.

It is a genetic inheritance passed from her father through her to David. Her father, my grandfather, would intercept total strangers on street corners and talk to them like old friends and so did my mother in Cooperstown.

That was the quality that served her well the second time she saved our family; she was the glue that held us together

through hard times, a woman of courage and resolve.

There was a time when I was in grade school that there was almost no money in our house - perhaps \$25 a week for everything is my guess, not much money even then.

It is not so much that she kept things going; it is that she did so without sharing any of the desperation or hopelessness she must have felt with her four small boys.

She must have been in torment but she kept it to herself, making a home for us in a house without central heating or indoor plumbing, even without a telephone.

Hard times came again in the lakeside St. Catharines house where she lived, until a few years ago, for more than half of her adult life.

Again it came to pass that there would be no money coming in, and not much hope of it. By then, only my two youngest brothers were still at home, but there was a mortgage and all of the ordinary family bills to pay and no money to pay them with.

In her youth, she bought the bill of



BACK OF BEYOND

Neil Campbell

goods that most women were sold in those days and worked a trivial clerical job while she waited for a husband to turn up so she could make being a homemaker her full-time occupation.

Now, more than a quarter of a century later, her only professional qualification was her talent with people and she turned that into a real estate sales job that saved the house and the family.

That might sound like an ordinary thing to do, except as a salaryman all my life, I can't imagine the courage it took to put herself on the line that way. Sell, or you lose everything, and there is nobody to save you.

She was the bravest person I have ever known.

We old-stock Ontario folks have not much talent for mourning. We don't tear our hair or gnash our teeth or ululate; we just look grim and remember.

These past few days, I have been remembering my mother. Hundreds of times.

Two Canada geese fly over my woods trail as The Brown Dog Jiggs and I walk home from the sugar bush for supper. They fly so low over us we can hear the flap of their wings.

Wow, I say to Jiggs, wait until I tell Mom about this. And then I remember that I can't.

Bylaw not practical

from page 6

property changes hands. The unease can only be unsettling for the community.

Council could mitigate the situation by putting some serious thought into which areas and sizes of property might be able to absorb a commercial vehicle and up to what size. This is what zoning is all about. To allow 63 tonne trucks everywhere is not a practical solution.

Reg Holloway
Minden

Darren Lum bids readers farewell, with fondness

Dear Haliburton/Minden,

When I hear the line, "Home is where the heart is", I know what it means.

After five years of living in the Highlands I've discovered there isn't a truer statement that clearly defines an area and its people.

Anytime I pause from work I'll remember when families let me into their home and fed me dinners, and how people let me into their lives (if only for the day) and entrusted me with their stories.

This generosity, goodwill and sincerity I believed could only be bestowed upon family and not an outsider. I discovered quickly that I was family... with the newspapers and the community.

I may have moved on to a new place, but I will always have my heart in Haliburton County.

I am truly a better person for living here. Thank you.

Darren Lum
Bracebridge

Editor's note:

We're sure our readers join us in wishing Darren well in his new venture. He is now the staff photographer for *Muskoka Magazine*, *North Country Business*, and *Focus on Muskoka*. We will miss him both as a friend to the Highlands and the *Times*, and as an outstanding photographer who gave us his own unique view of life here. You can reach him at darren@northcountrymedia.com.

Two opposing views on Sunday hunting

Give us a day of peace

To the Editor:

Re: Sunday hunting editorial, March 2, 2006.

There was a time when smokers insisted their actions did not affect non-smokers. We now accept the fact the smokers' actions not only affect our health, but also our mutual enjoyment of shared spaces.

I disagree that Sunday hunting is a "Lord's Day" issue. If you insist on making Sunday hunting an issue, perhaps then Saturday could be the day when everyone else could enjoy the woods.

Allowing hunting in Crown forests on Sunday precludes the safe enjoyment by passive users such as hikers. While the risk may be small, ANY risk of being shot is not acceptable and therefore will keep people and their pets away from healthier pursuits in the woods. Why bother promoting Trails and Tours at all when hunting season lasts for months.

Crown land is shared land. Non hunters (who are represented by 75 per cent of the population) deserve ONE weekend day (less than 14 per cent of the days in the week) to enjoy the woods without fear of getting caught or killed by a stray bullet. And yes, hunters shoot people every year so it is a statistical possibility.

It's all about sharing - safely sharing.

Napier Simpson
Maple Lake



Darren Lum/THE PHOTO

Give us an extra day of hunting

The following letter was first sent to Algonquin Highlands council.

Recently, I read in the *Minden Times* that the Township of Algonquin Highlands had reversed its support for Sunday hunting. This brings great disappointment to myself and many others who enjoy hunting in your municipality.

You raised the argument that there was a change of heart because the Ministry of Natural Resources decided to include Crown land in this additional hunting opportunity. The township apparently only has a say over what happens on private land and the ministry has full control over the public lands. So, as such, your reversal will do nothing to "protect" the people who want to feel "safe" using the Crown land areas on Sundays. The same people by the way, who also use the Crown land the other six days hunting is permitted. This will only penalize people like myself who hunt solely on private property and who have control over who accesses this property.

I don't see how this reversal of support will do anything but alienate private property owners. Those who want to hunt on public land will still have that additional opportunity to enjoy.

I also read with great interest one of the comments to the effect that the additional day at a deer hunting camp wouldn't mean much because people pack up on Sundays to leave their camps. I don't hunt from a hunting camp, and have a limited number of days to hunt. This initiative would increase my days in the field to enjoy deer hunting as well as small game hunting. Or what about the additional chance to harvest the growing numbers of nuisance bears that are becoming more of a threat to the public, or the growing numbers of waterfowl that pollute the parks and waterways with their droppings?

Please reconsider your reversal of your previous decisions and removal of support for this initiative. I look forward to your response.

Thank you.

Charles Allison
via e-mail

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For

Haliburton Highlands Health Services Corporation
2006 Annual Report To The Community

The Haliburton Highlands Health Services Corporation distributes an Annual Report to the Community. We require a company / individuals to design, write, produce and print this full colour newspaper report. Included in this report is to be pictures of the interior and exterior of both facilities, services and community programs.

The report is to be delivered to the sites by Tuesday, June 13, 2006.

The price is to reflect a complete project and is to be submitted by 4 pm on Monday, March 27, 2006 to:

Haliburton Highlands Health Services
Box 115
Haliburton, ON
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Attention: Annual Report

For information & specifications please contact:

Dale C. Walker
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foundation@hhhs.on.ca

Hawk Lake landfill doesn't have to close in 2006

by BRYN WEESE
Times Staff

The following are brief notes from the March 2 meeting of Algonquin Highlands council.

The Hawk Lake landfill site will not close in 2006, says Reeve Eleanor Harrison. "I've received a lot of e-mails and I understand we have a lot of nervous people out there. I can promise no closure in 2006."

Based on consultant reports, council had previously feared the Hawk Lake landfill would close as early as April of this year. However, after consulting with SGS Lakefield Research and the Ministry of Environment, Harrison says there may be several more years left in the landfill site.

"We may get three to five years out of this [landfill site]," she said. "However, we cannot make any promises beyond this year, but it will definitely not close in 2006."

Boat storage

Although Northland Marine is in Minden Hills, owner Brad Griffin appeared before council to ask if approximately 100 boats could be stored, for six months, on the Griffin property in Stanhope. The property is directly across the North Shore Road from the township office.

The request follows the collapse of the business's barn at the corner of Hwy 118 and 35.

Council approved the property use request on the condition of a \$5,000 performance bond.

Griffin, whose parents Neil and Evelyn own the property in Stanhope, said the move would make it easier for owners and adjusters to evaluate their boats. Also, Griffin said, he wanted to move on after the collapse of the barn. The boats need to be moved so that the barn rubble could be taken off-site.

Council did warn that boats damaged beyond repair will not be accepted at the township's dump, nor would the materials from the barn. The barn, however, is in Minden Hills. Griffin said he would plan for dumpsters to remove the destroyed boats.

Trails and Tours

Lindsay Elder and Karen Hoover of Trails and Tours presented their year-end report for 2005 to council, and while the report include county highlights, it also makes special references to highlights of the year in Algonquin Highlands.

Notable was the development of the five-kilometre Crest of Kennis Trail, which connects the Hawk Lake Log Chute to the Circuit of Five Viewpoints and Ridge Trail system.

Updated signage and GPS data, as well as increased volunteer hours and the completion and groundbreaking of several trails, were also highlighted.

Council asked that they be notified before any new trails are constructed in Algonquin Highlands.

"Algonquin Highlands might be getting to the cut-off point for walking trails," said Reeve Eleanor Harrison. "I would like,

in the future, that if you have a new trail in mind, to let us know. I think we need to be aware. We need to know what's going on to be accountable to our ratepayers."

FPPA certificate

Don Egan, a fire protection advisor with the Fire Marshal's Office, presented council with a Fire Protection and Prevention Act certificate of compliance.

While the entire act, adopted into law in 1997, deals with all aspects of fire services in Ontario, the municipal portion of the act makes fire prevention and public education mandatory. It also clarifies the municipal role in providing fire services and establishes the minimum level of fire protection.

Dorset Rec Centre

Correspondence from Melissa Alfano, the recreation coordinator for Algonquin Highlands, sparked a discussion about the vertical lift project proposed for the Dorset Recreation Centre.

The lift had initially been proposed to make the basement of the rec centre more accessible to people with physical disabilities. Although a lift inside the building had been rejected because of the building's design, a lift outside the building was still thought possible.

At the meeting of council, it was noted that a vertical lift on the outside of the building would not be possible according to an engineering report. Further proposals to make the rec centre more accessible would have to come from different funds than

those raised for the lift, said Harrison.

"Those funds were raised for a vertical lift and since that is not going through, the groups who donated should be offered their money back," she said.

An initial sum of money had been raised from local community groups to proceed with the Trillium applications.

Bear Wise funding

Council approved a recommendation from CAO Lorne Mitchell to prepare an application for \$30,000 worth of Bear Wise funding for educational signage. This would be used in conjunction with mandatory recycling signage, and two additional 40 cubic yard 'bear-proof' roll-on roll-off waste containers.

"The two are compatible," said Mitchell. "Proper recycling reduces bear-human contact."

Earlier this year, the township was awarded \$25,000 from the Ministry of Natural Resources for the Bear Wise program to be used for education programs, such as posters, and three waste containers.

Gardening contract

George and Carla Landsperger have once again been awarded the contract for the township's landscaping. Although the contract was supported unanimously at council, Deputy Reeve Tom Gardener and Councillor Kerry Lock did initially favour tendering for services. Councillors Diane Griffin and Jim Hicks, noting the quality of the Landspergers' service, supported

awarding the contract without tendering.

Harrison, who did not favour tendering the contract during the discussion, also noted the quality of the gardens.

"This [the Stanhope office] is the focal point and staff only receives compliments on our grounds," she said. "We know they do a good job."

The resolution to award the contract to the Landspergers was passed unanimously.

AMO conference

Council has decided to sponsor, for \$250, a hole for the golf tournament being held at the Delta Pinestone Resort in conjunction with the 2006 Association of Municipalities of Ontario regional conference being held in Haliburton County October 1 to 4.

"It just shows we appreciate something like this coming to Haliburton," said Harrison.

Seniors' Club donation

The Stanhope Seniors' Social Club has generously donated \$500 to the township with no strings attached. The money, a gift for the high level of maintenance of the Stanhope Firehall where the group meets, can be used anywhere the township sees fit. Harrison said, "Although it is unconditional, I think it should be spent for something, as opposed to the general coffers."

It was suggested that the Stanhope Recreation Committee might be the final recipient of the funds to be used in Stanhope.

Students speak their minds on variety of topics

by BRYN WEESE
Times Staff

If you just happened to pop in to the Minden Legion last Tuesday night, confusion of sorts would certainly be forgiven. The recent Archie Stouffer Elementary School public speaking competition, sponsored by the Legion, included speeches ranging from hockey, to animals, to vehicles (winged, hooved and pawed), to fear and pressure, and ketchup.

"I'm really pleased with the turnout and the children," said Francine Newton, the Legion's youth education chair. "They are all really talented."

"It's a good skill for the kids to learn," she added. "No matter what they do in life, there will be public speaking."

Laura Pottier enlightened and entertained with her speech on weird and wacky animals. It is never easy going first, but Pottier handled the pressure well. And speaking of pressure, Kaitlin Allore, who won first place in the intermediate category, focused her speech on the pressures and influences experi-

enced by children.

Chris Hall's speech about the history of hockey and the NHL was well done. A few speakers later, Drew Hewitt, who won second place in the Junior category, spoke very well about his experiences playing with the Highland Storm.

Tara O'Sullivan, who finished second in the intermediate category, spoke of the unusual practice of 'natural horsemanship.' There were two dog speeches, by Bailer Walker and Aaron Carter, the former winning first place in the junior division. Speaking about airplanes, Michael Nelson placed third in the Junior category.

Given their age, it is not surprising that the intermediate contestants chose slightly more complex topics for their speeches. Except Peter Markowski, who presented a very entertaining and well-thought-out piece about ketchup.

Megan McKay secured third place in the intermediate category with her well-researched biography of Walt Disney, both the man and the empire.

Kelsey Crowe, whose speech

on fears and phobias, was not scary but in fact informative and reassuring. Crowe's professionalism in delivering her speech was surprising, given that many people suffer from a fear, even a phobia, of public speaking.

The last speaker of the night, Kaily Schell, broached a topic very near and dear to many

hearts in the county - recycling. With alarming facts and figures about the garbage produced by the average North American (three kilograms per day), Schell's message to "reduce, reuse and recycle," will become more and more common as landfills continue to close.

Concluding the talent-filled

evening, Francine Newton again reminded the crowd that only the first place winners from both categories would advance to the next round of the competition.

Both Allore and Walker will compete at the Zone Level to be held on March 26 in the Fenelon Falls Legion at 1 p.m.



The Legion public speaking evening, held in the Minden Legion on Tuesday night, was full of interesting speeches broadly ranging in topics. The top three winners of both categories, seen here with the Legion's Youth Education Chair Francine Newton, are from left to right: (back row) intermediate first place winner Kaitlin Allore, second place winner Tara O'Sullivan and third place winner Megan McKay. (Front row) Newton, Junior second place winner Drew Hewitt, third place winner Michael Nelson, and Junior first place winner Bailer Walker.

Market values constantly fluctuating

from page 1

per cent of ratepayers.

Algonquin Highlands has also seen an increase in appeals. In 2004, the last adjustment year, there were 152 appeals for requests for reconsideration. To date this year, there have been 184.

MPAC prides itself on the increasing accuracy of assessed values. Asked why there would be more appeals even though the assessment system is supposed to be more accurate, MPAC Municipal Relations Representative Evan Brown says, "Given how active the market has been, it is difficult to predict that you'll see a downward trend [of appeals]. I think there are other factors coming into play. Even though the numbers might be slightly up over the 2004 figures, when you think about how active the market has

been, it is not surprising."

Brown says that the increased media coverage of MPAC in the last few years has also served to increase the number of appeals. People, he says, are more familiar with the appeal process and are more comfortable with MPAC. They understand the system better.

But the fluctuating market is also an important factor. As Rick Lowes, a salesperson with Remax, suggests, the market is more unpredictable now, and that has made assessing property value



"Now it's really fluctuating almost on a monthly basis," says realtor Rick Lowes.

in the market more difficult.

"There was a time, I guess two or three years ago, when the prices were going up on a fairly level basis, like two and a half, five, seven per cent a year. And then, all of a sudden it exploded and got real busy, 15 to 20 per cent, and now it's really fluctuating almost on a monthly basis. It was really slow in January and kind of exploded last month."

For Lowes, MPAC's job has never been easy, given the nature of property in Haliburton County.

"It is so hard up here. There are no two properties alike," he says. "Somebody hears about their neighbour's place being assessed at such and such a value and their property was assessed much higher and they don't think it's fair. In all honesty, when they walk in through the door

and they ask us, we say appeal it because what have you got to lose."

MPAC doesn't know yet how many assessments have been readjusted because of the requests for reconsideration. In Minden Hills, only 56 per cent of the appeals have been reviewed while in Algonquin Highlands, 66 per cent have been completed.

"There certainly would be some assessments that have changed as a result of requests for reconsideration, that's part of the process," says Brown. "As people are calling us and they are bringing issues to our attention, we are able to respond to that and that has resulted in some reductions being made and assessments being changed."

"Our goal this year was to try and get as

see WRAFT page 11

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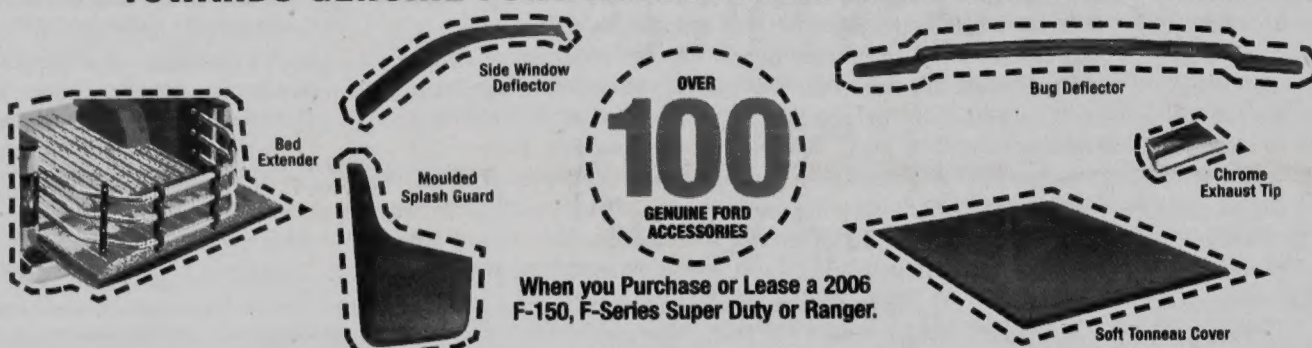
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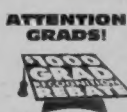
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WRAFT supports 5% cap

from page 10

many completed as possible before March 31, which is the appeal deadline," he adds.

The deadline, Brown notes, is not for the requests for reconsideration. Those informal appeals can be made at any time throughout the tax year. Formal appeals, however, must be filed with the Attorney General's office before March 31. Unlike the informal request for reconsideration, which is free, the formal appeal does charge an administrative fee and, as MPAC has noted in the past, is less likely to result in a reduced assessment.

Because the formal appeals are filed elsewhere, MPAC doesn't know how many formal appeals have been filed to date, but Brown did say that it is usually a much smaller number than those who request reconsiderations. In 2004, there were 26 formal appeals filed in Minden Hills, while in Algonquin Highlands there were only 21 filed in 2004.

Amidst the growing number of appeals, WRAFT (Waterfront Ratepayers After Fair Taxation) has been steadying the course of property taxation reforms. An association of more than 200 cottager and lake associations in Central and Eastern Ontario, WRAFT announced in its winter report some good news for all property owners in the province, especially those on waterfront.

On Wednesday March 1, MPP Tim Hudak, the PC finance critic, introduced a

private member's bill, the Homestead Act. If passed it would cap residential property assessment increases for tax purposes at five per cent per year as long as home ownership is maintained. Chiefly for WRAFT, the bill would apply to all property, including cottages, and the five per cent cap would still remain in place if the property is transferred to a child or spouse.

In addition, the Homestead Act would also allow property owners to make up to \$25,000 in home repairs, alterations, improvements or additions without facing an assessment increase.

"Working families, seniors and young people are facing higher taxes, higher home heating costs, increased user fees and escalating energy costs in Dalton McGuinty's Ontario," Hudak said in a press release. "Rapidly increasing property assessments and resultant property tax increases are simply unaffordable to the beleaguered Ontario taxpayer."

While Hudak's Homestead Act, Bill 75, has received only a first reading and is a long way from becoming law. WRAFT says it will work hard to support the initiative that seeks to "bring the [property taxation] system under control for the future."

WRAFT adds, "this makes future tax levels more predictable. WRAFT strongly supports the PC initiative and will work hard to help move it forward."

COMMUNITY

what's happening
in the Highlands

CALENDAR

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MINDEN ONTARIO

- **Now to Mar. 24:** Hospital Auxiliary will hold a used book sale at the Bank of Montreal. Lots of good reading.
- **Mar. 16:** Haliburton Well Baby Drop-in Clinic. Visit with a Family Health nurse to see how your baby is growing and developing. Held at the Ontario Early Years Centre in Haliburton (Halco Plaza) from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call the Health Unit at 457-1391.
- **Mar. 16:** Free Public Skating at the Minden Arena, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Sponsored by Village Chalet Restaurant.
- **Mar. 16:** Haliburton, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. - Food Handler Course, Health Unit office (191 Highland St., Unit 301). Course teaches participants on proper ways to handle and prepare food safely. Cost \$20./person. Call (705) 457-1391.
- **Mar. 17:** St. Patrick's Day Luncheon - March 17, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Fund raiser for Haliburton Hospital Auxiliary. New Menu: Steak pie, salad, dinner buns, dessert. Entertainment: Kathleen Owens & Earl Cooper. Fee payable at the door. For further information call 457-3030.
- **Mar. 17:** St. Patrick's Day Beef Stew & Biscuit Dinner - Minden United Church, 21 Newcastle St., Fri. from 5-7 p.m. Stew, Biscuits, Cole Slaw, Irish Deserts. Advance tickets available at the Minden Pharmasave. Call 457-1424 for cost and info. Tickets also available at the door.
- **Mar. 17:** Free Public Skating at the Minden Arena, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Sponsored by Easton's Valu-Mart.
- **Mar. 18:** Open Stage - The Haliburton County Folk Society hosts an Open Stage for the community the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month. 8-11 p.m. at the York St. Internet Cafe in Haliburton (across from the Rail's End Gallery). This is an all-ages, smoke and alcohol free event. Please contact 754-FOLK (3655) or hcfcsociety@gmail.com for more cost and info. Website at: www.haliburtonfolk.com.
- **Mar. 19:** at Minden United Church, we will hold another in our series of Equality Forum sessions. Our guest speaker will be Annie Merrill from "Victim Services". Please join us from 2-4 p.m. at 21 Newcastle St., Minden. For information check out www.victim-services.org
- **Mar. 19:** Free Public Skating at the Minden Arena, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Sponsored by Subway Development.
- **Mar. 20:** Caregiving can be stressful and lonely. If you are caring for an individual with a life-threatening illness or Alzheimer's disease, we can help. SIRCH Community Hospice in partnership with the Alzheimer's Society provides a Caregiver's Support Group on Mar. 20 at 1:00 p.m. at Hyland Crest in Minden. This group meets monthly to give caring support, share information, education, and caregiving tips and techniques. Call Dorothy Owens at SIRCH, 457-1742 ext. 36.
- **Mar. 22:** Deadline for the 4th Annual Writing Contest sponsored by the Haliburton Highlands Writers' and Editors' Network and the Agnes Jamieson Gallery. You can download information, rules and an entry form from the website at www.hhwen.org or pick up info at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery. Write a short story, a poem, a memoir, a personal essay, a piece of journalism, a monologue or a short play and Get Published.
- **Mar. 22:** Register for the next Prenatal Class. Free classes offered throughout the year by the Health Unit to help expectant parents prepare for baby's arrival. Call 457-1391 for more details.
- **Mar. 23:** Caregiving can be stressful and lonely. If you are caring for an individual with a life-threatening illness or Alzheimer's disease, we can help. SIRCH Community Hospice in partnership with the Alzheimer's Society provides a Caregiver's Support Group on Mar. 23 at 10:00 a.m. at Community Care in Haliburton. This group meets monthly to give caring support, share information, education, and caregiving tips and techniques. Call Dorothy Owens at SIRCH, 457-1742 ext. 36.

- **Haliburton Legion, Br. 129** - Every Wednesday night is Bingo night. Early Bird starts at 7:00 p.m.
- **Community Care Haliburton County** - If you need assistance with household chores - both inside and outside the home - please ask about our brokered worker program for Home Help and Home Maintenance. All our workers have been screened and pre-approved by our office. They offer low-cost service to seniors and disabled adults throughout Haliburton County. Call 457-2941.
- **Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 636**, Minden holds its General Business Meeting on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.
- **McKee's Place** - Homework Club meets every Tues. at 4 - 6:30 p.m. All grades, all subjects. Phone Karen Frybort or Heather Taylor at 457-3443. The Homework Club emerged from a group of students working part-time at McKee's Place. Our Philosophy has always been "schoolwork comes ahead of a part-time job". As an employer that invests in our youth, we decided as management that we would assist the kids with their homework and allow them to complete their academic requirements as well as hold a part-time job, encouraging their financial independence and furthering their skills in the F & B Industry. It's a win/win situation. We will be looking for monthly sponsors for the club to offset costs of after-school snacks ... they are all hungry upon arrival from school.
- **Every Monday:** Family Supper Night will be held at Minden United Church (Newcastle St.) for families with preschool and school-aged children. Come anytime after 3:30 prepared to help with supper preparation, childcare or cleanup. Call Amanda Austin 286-3592 by 9 a.m. Monday morning if you plan to attend, or call for cost and details.
- **First Friday of every month:** Open Mike Nite at the Dominion Hotel, Main St. in Minden. Starts at 8 p.m. Local performers needed; musical, comedy, magic, poets, etc. Call 286-6954 or 286-5035 to book your act.

Events listings are provided **FREE** for non-profit groups on a space-available basis. While we endeavor to accommodate requests for publication, we cannot guarantee that all requests for listings will appear. Requests should be faxed to The Times at 286-4768, emailed to editor@mindentimes.on.ca., or brought in to the office. **NOTE:** This calendar is **NOT A COMPREHENSIVE LISTING OF ALL EVENTS** taking place in the area. Please check the classified pages, display advertising and articles appearing elsewhere in The Times for more information on events and in the Highlands.

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Easton's Value Mart (March 17)	Subway Development (March 19)

The Minden Times sincerely apologizes for its error in not printing the Free Public Skating sponsors in the March 9th, 2006 newspaper for March break.

MNR proposes sweeping changes to fishing rules: seeks public input

Year-round trout seasons, new zones and streamlined walleye rules part of new package

by BRYN WEESE
Times Staff

Take note anglers: the Ministry of Natural Resources is proposing sweeping changes to the fishing regulations in southern Ontario, and they are asking for your opinion.

There are two series of proposals currently being discussed by the MNR. The first are new Fisheries Management Zones to replace the old Fisheries Divisions across Ontario, and the other is a myriad of changes to walleye fishing in southern Ontario's inland lakes.

"We are streamlining the regulations and simplifying the large list of exceptions which were difficult for anglers to know and follow," said Natural Resources Minister David Ramsay in a press release. "We are also creating more fishing opportunities by extending seasons or removing unnecessary season closures where there aren't any sustainability issues for native fish populations."

On both series of proposals, the MNR is asking for public input before the new changes take effect in January 2007.

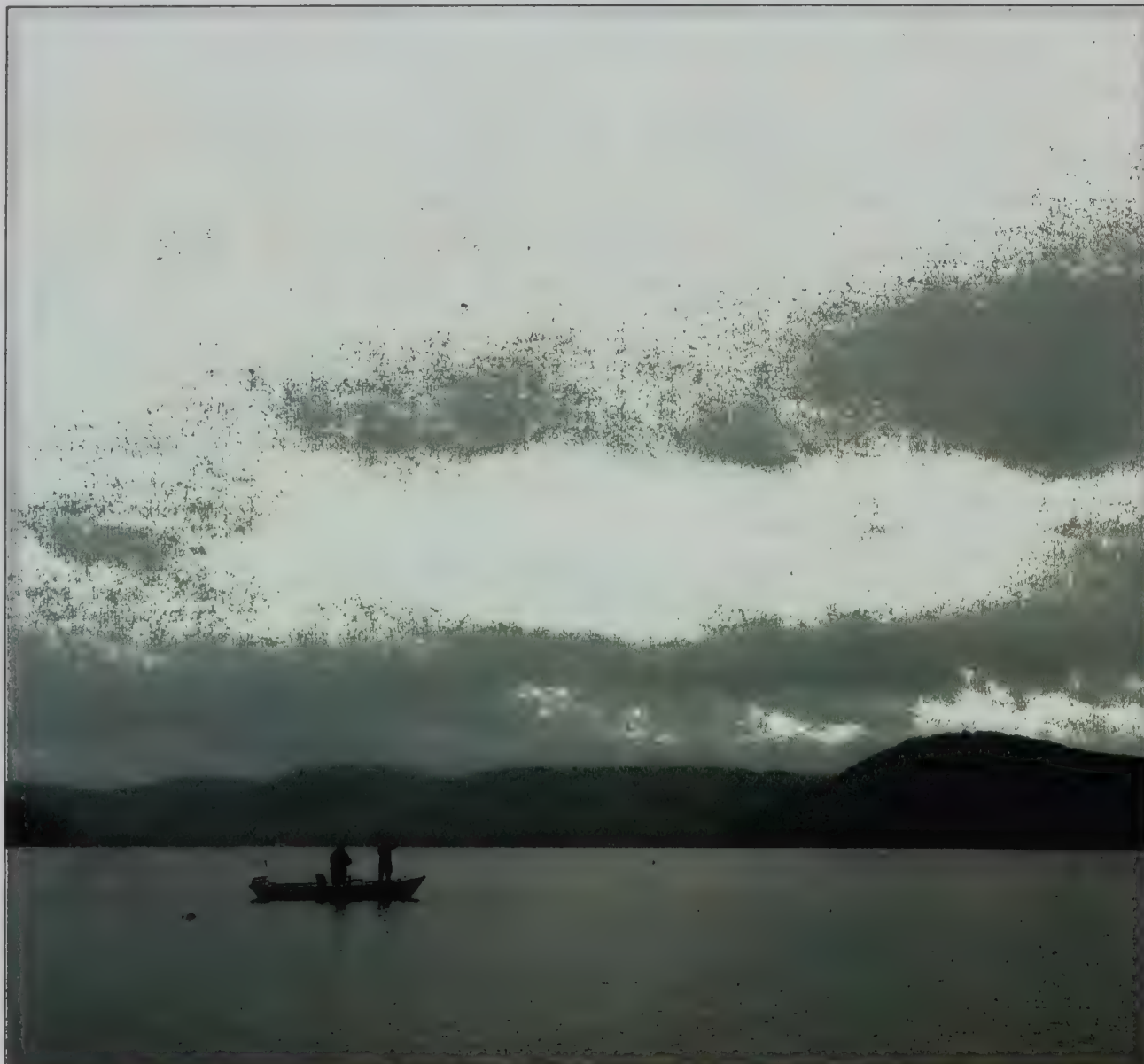
First on the MNR's list is a reduction of Fishing Divisions (now called Fisheries Management Zones) from 37 to 20 across Ontario. Locally, FMZ 15 (including Minden and Haliburton) will remain largely unchanged, except for receding borders on the northern edge. Area 15 formally bordered Sudbury, Espanola and North Bay to the north. Now, the boundary in the north is Highway 544 and the northern border of Algonquin Park. FMZ 15 is still bordered by the Ottawa River (FMZ 12) and Renfrew in the east and Georgian Bay (FMZ 14) in the west. The former southern boundary remains largely unchanged.

"The new Fisheries Management Zones are based on ecological and social factors and easy-to-find boundaries," says the MNR. "These zones would go into effect in 2007."

"The goal is to streamline fishing regulations and divisions to make it easier for anglers to understand them."

As part of the streamlining process, in FMZ 15 approximately 90 of the 338 previous fishing regulation 'exemptions' have been removed, meaning fewer lake-by-lake regulations.

Another change is that Algonquin Park, although still treated as a Specially Designated area that will managed differently from FMZ 15, is no longer its own fisheries zone. In the proposal, it would come under the jurisdiction of FMZ 15. Currently, however, under the new series of proposals, there are no changes to the



Fishing in Haliburton County is a very popular pastime for many residents. The MNR is hoping that their proposed changes to the fishing regulations will encourage new anglers and make it easier for everyone to follow the rules. Photo by Darren Lum.

fishing regulations in Algonquin Park.

Elsewhere in the new FMZ 15, new zone-wide changes being proposed include a reduced walleye limit and change in season to comply with province wide standards being proposed. The changes also propose implementing a limit on yellow perch, crappie, sunfish, lake whitefish and channel catfish catches, where none existed before. Also, on some water bodies, a winter closure of sensitive native brook trout fisheries is being proposed. A shorter lake sturgeon season is also being discussed.

However, not all of the proposed changes are reductions. In fact, being proposed is a year-round open season for stocked lake trout, brook trout, brown trout, splake and rainbow trout.

Bob Bergmann of the MNR, says the proposed year-round open season will apply to most stocked fisheries but will not include all stocked fisheries since some stocked populations co-exist in waters with natural populations.

The MNR is accepting comments from the public until early April. To comment on the new FMZs being proposed, visit www.ene.gov.on.ca/samples/search and enter Registry Number XB06E6001.

To view a map of the proposed FMZs, visit www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/fishing/fmz/index.html.

Southern Ontario Walleye Fishery

Another series of sweeping changes being proposed by the MNR affect the walleye fisheries in Southern Ontario's approximately 400 inland lakes. The MNR is proposing to implement blanket protections such as changes to the season, catch, possession and size limits, similar to those in Northern Ontario, where blanket size restrictions apply throughout most of the area.

"Walleye populations are low in many parts of southern Ontario because of stresses such as increased angler harvest," says the MNR. "More restrictive regu-

lations are required to improve the health of walleye populations – especially large adult walleye – and enhance the quality of the fishery."

In the fall of 2005, the MNR met with anglers, tourism representatives and other stakeholders in the walleye fishery to seek advice on various proposed fishing regulations.

Here in FMZ 15, changes to the season could mean a closure as early as March 1 or 15. (Currently the season ends on March 31.) A change in the daily catch and possession limit could be reduced from six (the current limit) to four or even two. Likewise, various slot sizes and size limits are being discussed, such as a minimum size of 50 centimetres (only walleye greater than 50 centimetres may be harvested), or a maximum size of 40 centimetres (only walleye less than 40 centimetres may be harvested), or a protected slot of either 35 to 55 centimetres or 40 to 65 centimetres (all walleye caught within the protected slot must be released).

The MNR says that the proposals up for discussion are the result of anglers' concerns. Minister of Natural Resources David Ramsay says, "we are addressing concerns from anglers regarding the quality of the walleye fishery."

"We want to work with stakeholders and the public to ensure we have a healthy, sustainable walleye populations and a healthier natural environment."

The proposed walleye changes would apply to more than 400 inland lakes and, following an assessment of public and stakeholder comments, the MNR will be implementing new walleye seasons and size and catch limit regulations for southern Ontario by January 2007.

The MNR is asking for public comment until early April. To view the proposal and for more information, visit www.ene.gov.on.ca/samples/search and enter Registry Number XB05E6801.

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Boarders 'jib off' at Sir Sam's

Nigel St. Pierre (left) and Scott Fennell (centre) ride a box while Mike Capel (right) slides down a rail at the third annual Jib Off at Sir Sam's Ski Hill in Eagle Lake Saturday. The event was a fun, competitive event targeted at snowboarders and skiers who may not get a chance to compete elsewhere. James Allison, seen hitting a jump on page 6, won the event. Winners won various prizes from the Lindsay-based store Breez. Photos by Casey Lessard.



Atom AE Storm team finishes season at all-Ontario semi-final

The Atom AE Storm finished their season by making it all the way to the all-Ontario semi-finals. Front row, from left: Chris Hall, Tyler Barry. Middle row: Jacob Sisson, Kirk Lopez, Jordan Hamilton, Tom Paul, and Connor Dollo. Back row: Megan Allore, Riley Tait, Spencer Trueman, and Nathan Feir. A huge thank goes out to our team sponsors Floyd Hall Insurance and Dollo's IGA. This was a great team of kids both on and off the ice. Thank you to all the parents for their time and dedication to the team. Photo submitted.

Highland Storm schedule for March

Atom Rep OMHA Playdown Finals

Saturday March 18 at 5 p.m. in Dresden

Sunday March 19 at 12 p.m. in Dresden

Friday March 24 at 6 p.m. in Haliburton

Saturday March 25 at 3 p.m. in Haliburton

Sunday March 26 at 1 p.m. in Minden

Novice - MPS Playdowns vs Parry Sound - Round Robin

Sunday March 19 at Parry Sound 12 p.m.

Sunday March 26 at Minden 4 p.m.

Peewee - MPS "A" Championship best 2 out of 3

Sunday March 19 at Minden 4 p.m.

Friday March 24 at Huntsville 7:30 p.m.

Sunday March 26 at Minden 2:30 p.m.

CARNARVON BOWL

Weekly Scores

Tuesday Afternoon, March 7

High Average: Ken Thompson 213; Lillian Mattsson 177

High Single: Ken Thompson 263; Lillian Mattsson 214

High Single HC: Ken Thompson 273; Lillian Mattsson 252

High Triple: Ken Thompson 663; Lillian Mattsson 521

High Triple HC: Ken Thompson 693; Lillian Mattsson 635

Tuesday Night, March 7

High Average: Ken Thompson 213; Marlene Robinson 198

High Single: Mike Vuksic 280; Brenda Harding 264

High Single HC: Mike Vuksic 318; Vanessa Burk 302

High Triple: Ken Thompson 633; Brenda Harding 689

High Triple HC: Mike Vuksic 728; Brenda Harding 797

Wednesday Afternoon, March 8

High Average: Ken Thompson 211; Carol Snow 171

High Single: Fred Phipps 289; Carol Snow & Marie Thompson (tie) 202

High Single HC: Fred Phipps 275; Judy Phipps 259

High Triple: Ken Thompson 591; Marie Thompson 529

High Triple HC: Don Nickell 735; Judy Phipps 701

Thursday Afternoon, March 9

High Average: Ken Thompson 215; Josie Cheesman 169

High Single: Ken Thompson 288; Josie Cheesman 206

High Single HC: Bob Webb 316; Linda Campagnolo 257

High Triple: Ken Thompson 677; Josie Cheesman 576

High Triple HC: Bob Webb 727; Josie Cheesman 714

Stanhope summer soccer needs coaches

by BRYN WEESE
Times staff

Stanhope summer soccer league organizers aren't panicking yet, but they are making a really big push to attract coaches for the upcoming season.

"As parents sign up their children at registration, we're asking each one, 'Would you be willing to coach?'" says Melissa Alfano, the recreation co-ordinator for Algonquin Highlands. "It is always a struggle to get enough. The bigger the push we can put on it the better."

Seasonally, the league requires approximately 30 coaches to supervise the 200 to 250 children who take advantage of the non-competitive soccer league that meets once a week in the summer in Stanhope.

The first of two registration nights was held recently in the Stanhope Firefighters Hall on North Shore Road. The next registration evening is scheduled for April 1.

"We are just sort of at the beginning of the search for coaches," Alfano adds. "We are usually in the same position at this time of year. There may come a point when we are desperate for coaches, but I don't think we are there yet."

For the past decade, the league has offered non-competitive fun to hundreds of



The joy of soccer: you can help put smiles on kids' faces by coaching in Stanhope this summer. File photo.

children. Since the league is all about fun, Alfano says, a prospective coach needs no experience.

"We have a really good coach's guide that gives lots of information about skills and practices. It's a general guide, but it's a non-competitive league so the kids are just there to have fun and learn a few skills."

Alfano says that, in addition to the chil-

dren's enjoyment, the league is fun for coaches, too.

"We have a coaches get-together in June and go over the guide and help anyone out," she says. "There is lots of support for people. We've had really great coaches who had never done it before. There is no experience required."

Also, coaching is not limited to parents

of registered children. Alfano says anyone can coach, even high school students. It probably looks pretty good on a CV.

The Stanhope soccer league gets underway on June 20 and runs for 10 weeks, ending August 22. Any interested coaches or players are encouraged to sign up at the next registration evening scheduled for April 1 in the Stanhope Fire Hall.

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YOUR GUIDE TO LOCAL BUSINESS

This Week's Feature: Sears - Minden Catalog Co.

Shop at your leisure 24 hours a day from the comfort of your home

Trying clothes on in the comfort of your own home can be more appealing than the glaring fluorescent lights of a change room. Catalogue shopping offers customers one-stop shopping at their convenience.

The Minden Catalog Company, located at 146 Bobcaygeon Road, is your outlet for Sears catalogue shopping. Inside, take advantage of the sitting area to browse through a selection of catalogues. Besides Sears the business carries catalogues from other favorites such as Avon, Mary Kay and The Pampered Chef. All of the products can be ordered through the Minden-based business.

Owner Rawn Lougheed purchased the Sears building last February (which also houses the OEY daycare) after her family sold the local chain of Jug City convenience stores. Since then, major renovations have been

underway including a large store front area and the creation of some building storage units that will be available this spring. Other exciting plans are in the works, so drop by the Minden Catalog Company to stay up to date.

In today's busy world "Catalogue shopping is beneficial for everyone, from older people to parents with young children who find it difficult to get out. You can shop at your leisure 24 hours a day by phone or through the website www.sears.ca," says Rawn. Sears has a great return policy and offers customers a wide variety of items from large appliances to socks.

Rawn is a strong supporter of the community. Therefore, The Minden Catalog Company is also an information resource for Big Brothers Big Sisters, an agency that partners up children with positive adult role models. Rawn herself is a Big Sister volunteer and encourages anyone with a little extra time to get involved. So come in and visit with Rawn and



The Sears - Minden Catalogue Co. is located at 146 Bobcaygeon Road.

Julie (she's been a permanent fixture for over 11 years) and they will be glad to assist you in any way. Offering fast and friendly service the business is open Monday to Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m..

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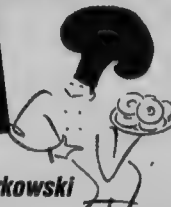
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Bowl for Kids raises \$47,000 in Haliburton and Kawartha Lakes

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kawartha Lakes - Haliburton would like to thank everyone who participated in their 26th Annual Bowl for Kids Sake fundraiser at the Minden Hills Bowling Centre.

"We are amazed once again at the generosity from these communities", says Jim DeFlorio, Executive Director. "We are pleased to announce that our grand total [in Haliburton County and City of

Kawartha Lakes] was \$47,000."

The top three individuals who raised the most funds are: Dan Martin who bowled in Lindsay and won the 27" Flat Screen Television and Home Theater system from Sears Catalogue in Minden by raising \$1,524; Sheila Shaw who bowled in Minden and won an Ultimate Escape for two at Lifestyle 2000 by raising \$1,000; and Franka Andriano who bowled in

Minden and won a gift certificate towards any bus tour from Cardinal Coach Tours by raising \$703. Butter Tarts 'N More won for Top Team by raising a total of \$2,508.

Anyone interested in learning more about Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kawartha Lakes - Haliburton and how you can become involved, please call 705-324-6800.

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Learn all about survival gardening

Friends of the Kinmount Library host gardening program April 11



AROUND THE TOWN

Patti Fleury
488-2938 Fax: 488-1246
email: brucefleury@ptbo.igs.net

Yearning for spring? The Friends of the Kinmount Library are holding a timely gardening program on April 11 in the Board Room at the library starting at 7 p.m.. The speaker will be Peter Goodchild who operates Summerhill Farms on County Road 503 near Irondale. His topic is Survival Gardening which translates into "doing more with less." Peter will focus on vegetables, using techniques for less water, fewer tools, cutting our reliance on chemicals and using less land. Please note also that the Friends hold a book sale at the library on the third Saturday of each month during regular library hours from 1 through 4 p.m. Donations of books, both hard and soft cover, are welcome and can be left at the library for this good cause. The March sale will be held

this coming Saturday, March 18.

Also looking ahead the next meeting of the Haliburton Highlands Genealogy Group will take place on Wednesday, April 12 at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre [back door]. The speaker will be Ray Miller, author of *Coal Oil Lights to Satellites*. Ray was born in a house on a dirt road between Minden and Kinmount and his book covers actual events based on memory and family diaries. Doors open at 6 p.m. with Ray speaking at 7 p.m.. Everyone is welcome and there is no admission charge. For more information contact Gail Leach-Wunker at 286-2225.

I have long admired *Balance* television host Dr. Marla Shapiro not only for the beneficial content of this program but also her courage in sharing her recent personal journey back to recovery. When Dr. Marla appeared on a commercial proclaiming the importance of psyllium fibre in our diet naturally I went out shopping. Did you know that there is only one food product in Canada containing both wheat bran and psyllium fibres? So proclaims its box which now graces the pantry shelf here at

the old farmhouse. Every morning it has replaced my previous cereal, a popular flavour favourite complete with almonds and a free exercise CD or inflatable red ball. With the new labelling regulations in effect I, like many others, have become a more informed consumer carefully reviewing contents of food products noting the presence or absence of certain elements like trans fats, carbs, sugar, cholesterol and sodium. Funny though, on this new box's labelling there is no mention of dynamite.

The Shaun Chapman Memorial Skateboard Park Committee's Spring Bazaar on Saturday, March 25 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Kinmount Community Centre has attracted a great variety of vendors. Shoppers will be able to choose from handcrafted items including

see RAFFLE page 17

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Raffle features spring theme prizes

from page 16

knitting, woodcraft, sewing and jewelry along with Mary Kay cosmetics, home baking and other treats.

Another special feature will be the spring raffle with prizes celebrating the spring theme.

There is no admission charge and a light lunch will be available at the snack bar.

Now for the scoring news with your usual reminder to keep busy and well. They go together. Numbers at some events were lower mainly due to family arriving over the March school break.

March 7 Stanhope Firehall Seniors Mixed Shuffleboard: In top spot was the duo of Laura Carnegie and Paul Poulton with 388 then Helen Skelding and Connie Sawyer second at 353 and Marj Hamilton partnered with Grace Barrack third at 310. Tied for low score honours at 247 were the teams of John Platt and Sandy Poulton and Jim Meadows and Belle Walker.

March 7 bid euchre at Minden Legion: High scores were a family affair with Marcel Roussel first and Pat Roussel second. Tied for third were Kay Smith and Gala Stamp while Marjorie Paradis, Elli Langpohl, Elva Paisley and Maria Tschida held the hidden scores. Marcel also had a moonshot along with Georgina Parkes, Kay Smith, Don Burch and Gala Stamp.

March 7 euchre at Gelert Community Centre: For the gents Don Hicks was high and Harold Harvie low with Rita Crofts high lady and Gala Stamp low. Hazel Benetin won for lone hands and Dorothy McElwain took the draw. Thanks to Audrey Vick for this update.

March 7 contract bridge at Stanhope: Stella McMillan and Harold Cox had the afternoon's only Slam. Leading the scoring was Muriel McIntosh 6280 followed by Harold Cox 5820, Stella McMillan 5450 and Mary McNeice 5300. Jan Heaven won the lucky draw, Jean Jackson the Shiny Penny and to Muriel McIntosh the B.M.A. Award for her Big Mac Attack.

March 8 duplicate bridge at Parklane, Haliburton: Playing the Howell System Margo Davidson and Muriel McIntosh were first at 56%. Tied for second at 53% were Norma Crewson partnered with Bruce Armstrong and Grace Boice teamed with Ev Morgan.

March 8 bid euchre at Stanhope: The moonshot quartet members were Bev Swick, Jean Dutka, Muriel Harrington and Helen Windsor. Verna Sawyer topped the pinks at 265 with Sharon Evans 258 second and Jane Swick 243 third. For the whites Don Burch led at 296 then Pat Scadden 273 and Rob Evans 248.

March 8 Kinmount Seniors euchre at Kinmount Legion: For the ladies our reporter Theresa Deak recorded the high and Emily Harvie the low while Pauline Franzen was high man and Roger Fournier low. Theresa also won for lone hands and Pauline for the draw.

March 9 euchre at Minden Legion: Holding the most lone hands were Margaret Fletcher and Don Hicks while Verna McDonald and Lorne Dinesen recorded the

high scores. Olive Daniels and Syd Adamson had the evening's lows with the other prizes going to Jim Bradbury [2], John Mallon, Pearl Cowen and Murray Daniels.

March 10 duplicate bridge at Echo Hills, Haliburton: Reet Murray and Bill Sandford were first at 69% followed by Chuck Wilson and Ross Fletcher 56% and Harold Cox teamed with Don Mills 52%.

March 10 bid euchre at Club 35: Moonshots landed on Gala Stamp, Marnie Butler, Tom Pearson and Jean Scadden with Marj Coffey holding the hidden score. For the pinks Marnie Butler led at 312 with Gala Stamp 286 next and Jean Randell 284 third. For the whites two ties were recorded with Dick Coffey and Percy Butler tied at 277 for first, George Bye and John Grimbergen for second at 272 and Clara Miscio 270 third.

March 11 bid euchre at Staanworth Terrace, Minden: Georgina Parkes, Emily Harvie and Pat Roussel took the moonshots while the draws went to Dorothy McElwain, Pearl Cowen and Isobel Cherwenka. At 274 Pat Roussel led the pinks with Pauline Franzen next at 260 and Emily Harvie 242 third with Theresa Deak first for the whites at 270 then Georgina Parkes 256 and Marcel Roussel 253.

March 13 cribbage at Minden Legion: In first was

Syd Adamson with Bob Cleverly second. The other prizes went to Laura Carnegie and Syd Adamson.

March 13 euchre at Club 35: On a cut of the cards Helen Windsor won for most lone hands. High score holders were Mary Pearson and Cliff Davison with Clara Miscio and Garth Windsor recording the evening's lows. It was Tom Pearson who took home the baloney.

March 13 euchre at St. Paul's Friendship Club, Minden: In the lone hands column it was Gala Stamp and Marion Stickwood. The afternoon's high scores went to Ken Rowden and Mabel Deacon with Jeanne Keliele tallying up the low. Jeanne also won both a regular draw prize along with Lorne Dinesen and a St. Patrick's Day draw with Gala Stamp and Mabel Deacon.

March 13 Kinmount Seniors bid euchre at Kinmount Legion: High score holder was John Deak at 264 with Frank Franzen second at 252. Sam Gaudet took the draw prize while Theresa Deak and Roger Fournier had moonshots.

March 13 euchre at Staanworth Terrace, Minden: For high hands it was our reporter Elaine Yeo, for lone hands Gala Stamp, for low hands Murray Daniels and for the special prize Pat Bailey.



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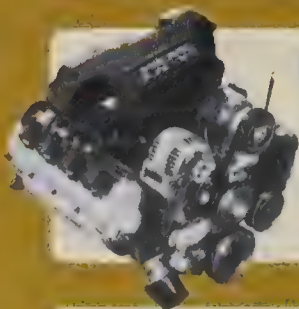
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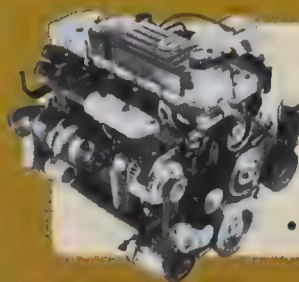
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Dance planned Saturday to help Pine Reflections

Greenhouse collapse hit family hard



STANHOPE LIFE

Pauline Johnson
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When catastrophe strikes your home or business, the shock of it can be overwhelming, even if you have insurance to cover the costs of reconstruction. When insurance isn't available for things like natural floods or buildings not considered permanent (i.e. greenhouses), knowing that you are on your own to rebuild can dismay the strongest of us.

When the ice storm on February 18 caused the greenhouse at Pine Reflections in Carnarvon to collapse, Nigel and Gina Atkinson found themselves faced with the prospect of a lot of work to clear out the ice, snow and debris as well as to rebuild the greenhouse.

Parked inside the greenhouse when it collapsed were two cars. One belonged to Nigel's nephew and one belonged to a neighbour. The neighbour's car was a write-off. It was a Camaro from the early 90s and he had fixed it up with loving care.

Their daughter Natalie Stiver said, "As if one hardship was not enough, a few weeks earlier, on January 28, they had had to put their beloved dog to sleep. Not a week after they got the ashes back, the roof on the greenhouse collapsed."

Seeing neighbours undergoing hardship brings out the sense of community in an area such as Stanhope. People jump in, asking what they can do to help and showing their support in so many ways.

The idea to establish a greenhouse and start the Pine Reflections Garden Centre had originally been suggested by a friend from Kleinberg, Dan Sant. He had been bringing plants up to Gina and Nigel for years, and they had been selling well. Having a spare greenhouse on his own property, he helped them set it up between Nigel's garage and Gina's shop.

Natalie said, "The business has enhanced both their lives as Nigel already had a passion for landscaping and it brought out Mom's talent for gardening. A couple of years ago when the tornado went through Carnarvon and uprooted a

tree, Nigel planted flowers in amongst the roots and turned it into a beautiful perennial garden."

Not content to just make a business of The Pine Reflections Garden Centre, Nigel and Gina used it to enhance the sense of community often promoted by the volunteer firefighters of which Nigel is one. The band they had at the grand opening of the centre was the beginning of a fun day held for a couple of years. Then Gina got the idea to turn the garden centre into a haunted house at Hallowe'en to have some fun and to raise more money for the Stanhope Fire Department.

"She was devastated the day the greenhouse fell down," said Natalie. "Bob Barrow, a neighbour came out from day 1, shoveling from four to six hours a day and cutting out plastic and twisted metal until the job was done. Ben and Judy Thomas also helped as did Dan Stiver. So many people called, showing that they were genuinely concerned." This gave Natalie the idea to organize a fundraising dance for Saturday, March 18 beginning at 8 p.m.. It will be held at Carnarvon Bowl.

Many people have offered their help with organization and donations. Jaime Bacon will be the D.J. for the evening. A donation of \$5 per person at the door is requested to cover the cost of entertainment and there will be raffles and a 50/50 draw.

"It is an opportunity for people in the community to pull together and show support for a couple who have given so much of themselves to Stanhope," says Natalie.

For more information call Natalie at 705-489-1397 or contact her via her cell phone at 416-882-5129.

To submit any item of interest to this regular weekly column, please e-mail bpjohnson@sympatico.ca or call (705) 489-3878.

Share what you know about what's happening in Stanhope, what Stanhope residents are up to or how you enjoyed a particular event or gathering.



A fundraising dance will be held this Saturday to help Nigel and Gina Atkinson, whose Pine Reflections greenhouse collapsed this winter (above). Photo, Bryn Weese.

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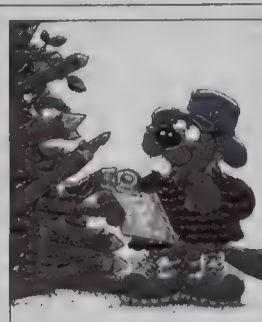
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Are you wearing the wrong brassiere?

Upcoming clinic could find you the bra of your dreams, making you feel healthier



DORSET NEWS

Melissa Alfano
705-766-0076
melalfano@hotmail.com

Oprah Winfrey states that 85 per cent of women are wearing the wrong bra. A professional bra fitter can assess your individual requirements and ensure that you are fitted with the correct bra. A properly fitted bra will provide support without causing shoulder or back pain. In addition it will facilitate blood circulation and lymphatic drainage for the breast glands. A correctly fitted bra contributes to a woman's health and well being while enhancing self-confidence through posture improvement. Barb Hoy, RN, is a professional bra fitter and will be holding a bra clinic at the Dorset recreation centre on Wednesday, April 5. Appointments may be arranged by calling 705-766-9968.

A thank you luncheon for Dorset Heritage Museum volunteers was held at the Fiery Grill on March 7. Fifteen ladies were present and enjoyed a wonderful lunch. Alice MacKay thanked the group for all their hard work in the past several years at the museum and at bingo where a substantial amount of funds was raised for the museum. Volunteers also bid *au revoir* to Cathy Baird who is leaving the Dorset area to be closer to family. Cathy promised



Dorset's next Family Movie Night features *Wallace and Gromit in The Curse of the Were Rabbit*.

to return to help with special events and to keep in touch with all her friends in Dorset. Norm MacKay, "the man in charge," was unable to attend as he was helping to supervise a work crew at the museum, the grand re-opening of which is scheduled for Saturday, June 17. The museum is also hosting Heritage Day on Saturday, July 15.

For the third year the Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation is selling native plants and wildflowers to members and friends. Plants must be ordered by the end of March for pick-up Saturday, May 20. For more details or to obtain an order form,

contact Daphne Curtis at daphne@drcurtis.ca.

The next Dorset Family Movie Night takes place at the Dorset recreation centre on Friday, March 17 starting at 7 p.m. *Wallace and Gromit in The Curse of the Were-Rabbit* (just released on DVD) will be screened. Admission is by donation and the popcorn is free. For more details, call the recreation centre at 705-766-9968.

There will be a Dorset Community Policing meeting on Tuesday, March 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Dorset recreation centre. All are welcome.

As part of a strategic planning initiative, Haliburton Highlands Health Services is conducting group discussions throughout the county on health issues. Dorset's focus discussion is scheduled to take place Wednesday, March 22 at 4 p.m. at the Dorset recreation centre. All Dorset residents are welcome, even if you live "on the other side." If you would like to participate in this discussion, please call the recreation centre at 705-766-9968.

The Lake of Bays Anglican parish will be having a parish-combined service in Dorset Sunday, March 26 at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome.

Registrations are now being accepted for the Ukrainian easter egg workshop being held at the Dorset recreation centre Saturday, April 1 from 10 a.m.

to 1 p.m. Everything is provided and the cost is \$5 per person. Join Ginger Kulas for a fun day learning how to make a traditional Ukrainian egg. Ginger has been teaching in schools and providing workshops for several years using traditional methods with beeswax, dyes and candles. There will be a beginner egg for first-timers and an intermediate egg for those who have already participated in one of Ginger's workshops. Space is limited so registration is required. Don't be disappointed. Register by calling the recreation centre at 705-766-9968.

Are you looking to get rid of good, used stuff? Why not rent a table at the Oxtongue Lake community centre yard sale to be held on the May long weekend. Tables are available to rent for \$10 each for the weekend (hours to be announced). Or, donate your good used stuff to this community centre fundraiser. For more details, contact Betty at 705-635-3948.

Birthday wishes for the week of March 12 to 18 go out to Fred Baum, Meghan Allore, Taylor Clark and Emma MacKay. Celebrate and have fun on your special day.

To submit an item of interest or a birthday wish, please email me at melalfano@hotmail.com or give me a call at 705-766-0076.

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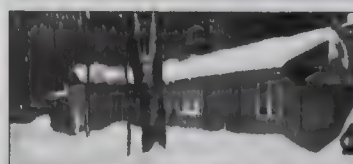
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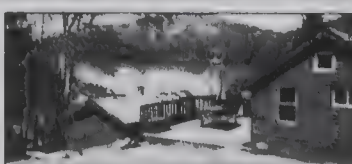
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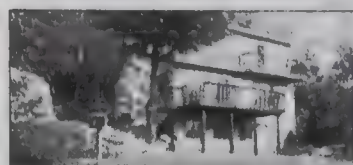
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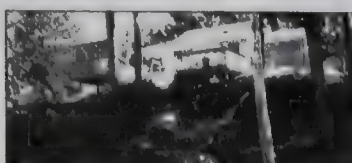
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Spacious 3 bdrm home. Sunset view across McCue Lake from large sunroom. Original hardwood flooring, colonial trim. New roof, soffit & fascia, wiring, upgraded insulation, new 4 pc bath. Stone fireplace.

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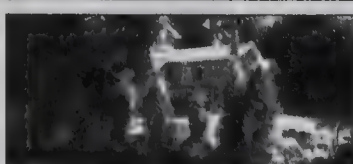
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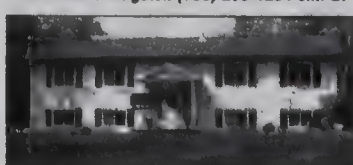
Call Bruce Livingston (705) 286-1234 ext. 27



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Cozy 2 bedroom cottage, 200 feet waterfront, 3 lake chain.

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Call Chris James (705) 457-2414 ext. 27



Luba
Cargill
SALES REP



Madeline
Doyle
SALES REP



Chris
James
SALES REP



Patti and
Hal Johnson
SALES REPS



Debra
Lambe
SALES REP



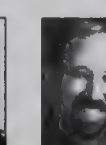
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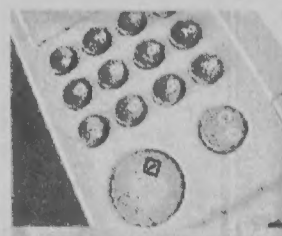
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The Times
MINDEN ONTARIO

Announcements

Obituaries

HENRY - Margaret Elizabeth (Liz)
1947 - 2006

Margaret Elizabeth (Liz) Henry of Calgary passed away unexpectedly in her sleep on Sunday, March 5, 2006 at the age of 58 years.

She will be incredibly missed by her sons, Adam and Andrew and their partners Dawn Noble and Cheri Bauer; her sisters Ann McKay of Toronto, and Jane Boyd and brother-in-law Scotty of Minden. "Queen Aunt Liz" will also be lovingly remembered by her numerous nephews, nieces and "greats". She is predeceased by her parents Gord and Marg McKay; her brother Jock McKay, her sister and brother-in-law, Mary and Al Coneybeare and her dear friend John O'Toole.

A Memorial Service was held at McINNIS & HOLLOWAY'S Park Memorial Chapel (5008 Elbow Drive S.W. Calgary, AB) on Saturday, March 11, 2006 at 2:30 p.m. Forward condolences through www.mcinnisandholloway.com. As a gardener, Liz would appreciate friends planting flowers in her memory. Memorial tributes may be made directly to the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Alberta, 200, 119 - 14th St. N.W., Calgary, AB T2N 1Z6 Telephone: (403) 264-5549, www.heartandstroke.ca. Arrangements in care of McINNIS & HOLLOWAY FUNERAL HOMES Park Memorial Chapel, 5008 Elbow Drive S.W. Calgary, AB T2S 2L5 Telephone: (403) 243-8200.

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Obituaries

MacINTOSH, Carl "Harvey"

Passed away peacefully at the Hyland Crest Senior Citizens Home, Minden on Thursday, February 23, 2006, in his 84th year. Beloved husband of Blanche Macintosh (nee Sampson). Dear father of Anne (Mark) Walker, Bob (Juanita), Keith (Sharon), Charlene (Murray) Chisholm, Sharon (Jim) Walker. Loving grandfather of Ashley (Shannon), Justin, Travis, Jason, Angela, Ryan, Jeffrey, Steve, Amy, Stacey (Dave), McCarthy, Shane (Kristen), Kevin, Sherri and great grandpa to Shawn. Predeceased by his parents Carlos and Alma Macintosh, by his sister Lilian (Charles) Burton and by his grandson Derek Walker. Survived by his sister Lorraine (Leonard) O'Brien, by first cousin Florence (Walter) Clements and by his nephews Ron (Linda) Burton, Ted (Muriel) Burton, and Ken (Sharon) O'Brien. Friends were invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Main Street, P.O. Box 427, Minden KOM 2K0 (or online at www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com) on Saturday, February 25, 2006 from 6:00 until 9:00pm and on Sunday, February 26, 2006 from 2:00pm until the time of the Funeral Service at 3:00pm. Spring Interment Minden Cemetery. Masonic Service was held on Saturday evening at 6:30pm. Memorial donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (H.H.H.S.F.) or to the Heart and Stroke Foundation would be appreciated by the family.

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Obituaries

Samelle Gordon McDonald - Passed away peacefully at the Ross Memorial Hospital, Lindsay on Tuesday, March 14, 2006 in his 83rd year. Beloved husband of the late Do-reen (nee Barry). Dear father of Karen and her husband Len Ross of North Bay, Barry and his wife Valerie of Washago. Loving grandfather of Joanne Ross and David Ross. Dear brother of Betty and Ken Scott, Gwen and Gerald DeForest, and brother in law of Helen Barry, predeceased by Murray, Muriel and Ross Pritchard, Karl and Eileen Barry. Son of the late Albert Bolton Samells and Helen. McDonald. Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Main St., P.O. Box 427, Minden KOM2K0 (or on line at www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com) from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. on Thursday. Funeral service in the chapel on Friday, March 17, 2006 at 11:00 a.m. Reception to follow in the Family centre at the Funeral Home. Spring interment at Maple Lake United Church Cemetery. Memorial Donations to Maple Lake United Church or to the charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family.

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Obituaries

STEVENSON, Alexander Ferguson - Peacefully after a lengthy illness at Highland Crest Senior Citizens home, Minden on Tuesday, March 7, 2006 in his 99th year. Beloved husband of the late Mary Ida Besse (Oct 2004). Loving Father of Garry of Welland and cherished grandfather to Marianne of Richmond Hill, John (Alexandra) of Berne Switzerland, Jane (Scott) Fitzpatrick of Brooklin, Ontario, Great Grandfather of Nigel and Moira of Switzerland, Alexandra, Caroline and Aidan of Brooklin. Friends were invited to visit the family at The Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Main St., P.O. Box 427, Minden KOM 2K0 (or on line at www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com) on Friday from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.. Funeral Service to be held in our Chapel on Saturday March 11, 2006 at 1:00 p.m.. Spring Interment at Zion United Church Cemetery. Memorial Donations to the Minden Hospital Auxiliary or The Alzheimer's Society would be appreciated by the family.

Memorial services

Ross Baldry - Retired Bell Canada Employee in Niagara Falls and Toronto) At the Sunnybrook & Women's Health Science Centre in Toronto On Friday evening, March 3, 2006 in his 78th year. Beloved husband of Marjorie Coombs. Loving father of Catherine & Lew Constantino, Mary Jane & William Brennan, James & Sue Baldry. Fondly remembered by his grandchildren Matthew, Jeffrey Jonathan, Jacey, Griffen, Brady, Crystal & Craig. Predeceased by his parents Arnold & Estelle Baldry of Niagara Falls. Visitation and Funeral Service A private Funeral Service was held. As expressions of sympathy donations to the SIRCH Community Hospice would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME Hwy. # 118, Haliburton Ontario (705)457-9209 WWW.communityfuneralhome.com

2006

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4 bdrm bungalow on 1.3 acre landscaped lot. Upgraded hydro, oil furnace & tank, drilled well, with A/C. Full basement. Terrific starter or retirement home. Call Fred Chapple or Bill Kulas.
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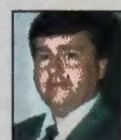


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Great 3 bdrm family or retirement home located 15 min. E of Haliburton on Hwy. #118. This home also features 2 baths, finished rec room with w/o as well as a w/o off the DR to back.
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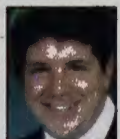


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Horseshoe Lake: Enjoy miles of boating & fishing on this 2 lake chain. This 4 bdrm, fully insulated Viceroy home/cottage features 155' of lakefront, central heat, vacuum, sunken LR & garage.
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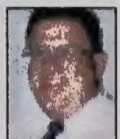


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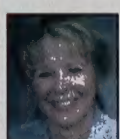
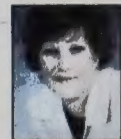


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\$199,900
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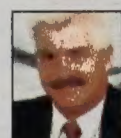


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ext. 223



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\$549,000
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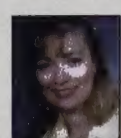


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